

Local RESTORE Council  
December 9, 2013  
Tiger Point Community Center  
Gulf Breeze, FL

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, and members Buzz Eddy, Shon Owens, Cal Bodenstein, Dave Robau, Greg Fountain, Brian Watkins, Donna Tucker, Rob Williamson and Tony Alexander. Also present were the County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), County Administrator (Hunter Walker), and County Attorney (Angela Jones).

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the November 14, 2013 meeting minutes.

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, and Gulf Consortium

Jeff Helms (Atkins North America, Inc.) gave a power point presentation regarding an update on NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment), RESTORE, and Gulf consortium (Attachment in file). He gave the Board a brochure book titled, "The Gulf of Mexico at a Glance" (Attachment in file). Helms gave an overview of a recent presentation he made to the Bay Area Resource Council's (BARC) Technical Advisory Committee. He said his recommendation is to filter the draft watershed plan through the Bay Area Resource Council process. He said January 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a Gulf Consortium meeting. He said Pam Childers (Escambia County Clerk) made a statement to Escambia County Commissioners that she had received a phone call from the Department of Treasury informing her that the Transocean money is expected to start flowing by October 2014. He said he spoke with Donald Spencer (Santa Rosa County Clerk) and asked if he had received a phone call, he said he had not. Helms asked Walker to follow up and make sure Santa Rosa County hasn't missed any phone calls from Department of Treasury. He said he feels Santa Rosa County will be ready when this money starts flowing. He said recently the NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) announced that the state of Florida will be receiving \$15.7 million that will fund six projects. He said two of the projects will directly impact Santa Rosa County. He further discussed these projects.

Helms said there are four regional NRDA projects to implement across the panhandle and three of these projects will have a direct impact on Santa Rosa County. He said there will be an opportunity for public comment, on the projects, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Pensacola Bay Center beginning at 6 p.m. Helms said he would like to make sure that all public information is posted at the South Santa Rosa County Complex. He gave a summary of the Phase III early restoration projects and displayed a map showing the location of the projects (Attachment in file).

Robert Boston said this map does not show any artificial reefs located in the Santa Rosa County watershed. He said he contacted reefing officials with Florida Department of Environmental Protection and they indicated to him that R2 reefing projects are being considered. There was further discussion regarding reef structures.

Helms further discussed four new NRDA projects for Santa Rosa County: Wayside Park boat ramp, Navarre Beach Park Soundside and Gulfside Walkover Complex, Escribano Point/Yellow River Wildlife Management Area enhanced recreational opportunities.

Williamson asked how much NRDA funding remains available. Helms said of \$100 million allocated to the State of Florida, he believes \$88 million has been used. Lynchard said to clarify, this is early restoration dollars and there will be more NRDA money available at a later date.

Lynchard said it is important that there is symbiotic relationship between the monies that Santa Rosa County spends locally, from Pot 1 for RESTORE, and the monies that are flowing to our region through NRDA, NFWF and the other sources of funding. He said it is important that this Council keeps an eye on what is happening with all of the different funding sources.

There was further discussion and review of the criteria of each category:

Category 1 - Environment

Williamson asked Helms if he could list the criteria in order from highest assigned points to lowest assigned points. Helms said yes.

Lynchard said at the last meeting the Council did assign more points to the health benefits of the projects, totaling 15 points.

## Category 2 – Economic Development

Shannon Ogletree (Economic Development Director) said the first line of this criteria should read “Pay a given ROI” (Return on Investment), instead of “Pay an average annual wage”. He said the average wage will be listed on the application and not as criteria. Lynchard said this will be reworded.

## Category 3 - General Infrastructure

Eddy said the “potential leveraging ability” mentions ability to partner with State or federal agencies. He said just because local is not mentioned, does not mean it is not included. Lynchard said the language should be consistent in every instance that the Council refers to leveraging, such as with Economic Development.

## Category 4 – Tourism

Kate Wilkes (Tourist Development Council) said she is happy with the criteria for this category. Helms said he appreciates Wilkes assistance and review of the criteria.

Lynchard said the same language will be inserted for leveraging, as mentioned previously.

## Public Input

Boston asked about the validations of assigned points to projects. Lynchard said this Council will assign the points to projects. He said the HAAS Center will be assisting the Council with developing the ROI. Helms said he is developing more detail on the metrics of project evaluation.

Jessica Koelsh, National Wildlife Federation, asked if language could be included in health benefits to clarify if this is environmental or human. She said the Council may want to be consistent with points assigned in each category for the criteria of public support and leveraging. Koelsh said she recommends adding environmental resilience, to the criteria, under the General Infrastructure category.

Lynchard said regarding points for public support and leveraging, he feels this criteria will be more important on economic development projects than on environmental projects. He said he agrees with adding “contributing to economic and environmental resilience” to the criteria.

After further discussion of the health benefits criteria, Lynchard suggested adding “direct or indirect human” health benefits to the health benefits criteria.

Lynchard asked Helms to compile the stated revisions and redo the ranking order of the categories. He said the Council will have this to approve at the January meeting. Lynchard said additional explanation of the criteria can also be done in the application and/or on the website.

## Draft Grant Application Format

Helms said he will need to review this draft application with County staff. Lynchard said the Council will need to review the draft application before the next meeting.

## Other Business

Lynchard said he would like to remind everyone that this Council is subject to the Sunshine Law. He said each member received information regarding this when they were appointed to the Council. Lynchard said Chairman Jim Melvin will replace Commissioner Cole as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner representative on the Local RESTORE Council. He was not able to be at today’s meeting.

## Public Forum

Barbara Albrecht said she is trying to develop a coordinated watershed citizen’s water quality monitoring program. She said during hunting season, a lot of deer carcasses transpire into the County’s creeks and impair water quality. Albrecht said she feels if the County had composting stations, with running water and lights, less animals would be placed in the creeks.

Henrietta Lawlor said she feels the County should make a suggestion for ground water improvement and monitoring project. She said she has been trying to call attention to the issue of surface water testing but the reply, she received from the State, was that there was no internal funding for this. Lawlor said she feels there should be availability on the county’s RESTORE web page, for citizens to be able to make suggestions. Lynchard said Lawlor can bring her ideas and information to the Board of County Commissioners.

Boston asked where the authoritative data is stored for Santa Rosa County's NRDA projects. He said there should be a repository area where this data is stored. Helms said Santa Rosa County has created a repository, with the submitted project information, in which Sheila Harris (Grants Coordinator) has access to. Lynchard said the goal is for the stored data to be a "click away". He said the Council will work on making this information as assessable and user friendly as possible.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting adjourned.

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By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman